

Memorandum

Date: April 5, 2002

From: Vermont Department of Taxes

To: Users of Meals & Rooms and Sales & Use Tax Statistics

Subject: New Report Formats

In order to provide summary information that is more reliable and more comparable between periods, effective April 1, 2002 the Department has changed both the reporting method and format of statistical reports.

Preliminary summary data for monthly filers is now extracted effective 75 days after the close of the reporting period (about a month and a half after the due date). Previously reports had been issued approximately 60 days after close of a period. Our data show that waiting the extra 15 days results in relatively the same proportion of returns being captured. At 60 days, the effect of processing irregularities varied substantially from period to period.

A second report for monthly filers will be generated summarizing returns processed within 180 days of the close of the reporting period. This update report will pick up most of the late-filed returns, amended returns, and any processing adjustments made after the preliminary report.

Quarterly reports will be issued at both 75 and 180 days after the end of the period, combining data from monthly and quarterly filers. Because regular changes in filing status for individual businesses distort year-to-year comparisons of monthly reports, a quarterly summary is a more uniform measure of economic activity when comparing to previous periods. Similar reports will be published for fiscal and calendar year periods, including annual filers. Please note that for these multi-period reports the interval between the period close and the reporting date will be longer for earlier periods and therefore reflect more returns.

The threshold for reporting data from a particular geographic unit will be raised from four to ten non-zero occurrences. This is in line with federal guidelines for reporting statistical summaries of small jurisdictions and reduces the possibility of effectively disclosing confidential information about a particular business.

To accompany the new reporting threshold, data from the counties of Essex and Orleans, and Franklin and Grand Isle, will be reported together. In many cases there are fewer than ten reporting units in Essex and Grand Isle counties.

A previous period summary will appear with each report, extracted with the same time period definitions. Period to period change percentages will be calculated and displayed.

Sales and Use taxable receipts will be split out into retail sales and receipts subject to use tax.

The Tax Department will no longer be providing printed copies through the mail. Distribution will be through the Tax Department's web site at www.state.vt.us/tax/statistics.shtml in Portable Document Format (PDF) form. From this web page, please click on "Business Trust Tax Statistics" for a selection of reports by time period.

Please let us know if you note any apparent errors on the reports or have other comments that may help us make these reports more useful. For further information, please contact:

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